

YVONNE S. WILSON

Missouri State Senate

Senator Yvonne S. Wilson, (Democrat), elected to the Senate in August 2004 following 5 years experience in the Missouri House of Representatives, holds a leadership position as Minority Caucus Secretary in the Missouri Senate. Sen. Wilson represents part of Jackson County in the Missouri Senate.

A native Kansas Citian, Sen. Wilson completed undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate studies in higher education in the state of Missouri. She received a bachelor of science in education from Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri, in 1950, the Master of Arts degree in sociology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City the educational specialist degree in education in 1976. Lincoln University bestowed upon Sen. Wilson the Honorary Doctorate of Humanities degree in 1991.

Prior to legislative duties, Sen. Wilson spent 35 years with The School District of Kansas City, Missouri as a teacher, consultant, principal, and retired from the position of Director of Elementary Education in 1985. The first African-American to serve as President of the Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals, Sen. Wilson later was a candidate for President-elect of the 25,000 member National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Senator Wilson is a member of the Missouri Legislative Women's Caucus, Missouri Legislative Black Caucus an executive member of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL). As a member of the NBCSL Education Committee, she is co-author of the committee's nationally published "Closing The Achievement Gap: Improving Education Outcomes for African American Children."

Numerous community involvement for Sen. Wilson includes membership on the Kansas City, City of Fountains Foundation board of directors; Kansas City Sister City Commission; the Kansas City Sister Cities Association board of directors, Sheraton Estates Neighborhood Association, Lincoln University Alumni Association and is the recipient of many local, state, national awards and recognitions.

Sen. Wilson has traveled extensively including trips to Russia, Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, South Africa, England, France, Tanzania and China.

Sen. Wilson currently resides in Kansas City with her husband of 53 years, Jim. They have three children: Berishia Wilson Chamberlain, Alycia Rodriguez Nichols and James E. (Jay) Wilson, (deceased); six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.